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given by Mr. Dyson. In the evening a concert took place at the Music Hall, which was well attended. The members of the choir were assisted by Miss De Courcy and Miss Palmer Lisle, vocalists: Mr. Henry Baumer, R.A.M. (pianoforte); Mr. Svendsen (flute); Mr. De Lacy (cornopean), and the Orpheus Glee Union. We must add that the Festival was in every respect a great success; and that the collection for the Charity at the doors of the Cathedral amounted to upwards of eighty pounds.

### SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

THIS Society commenced its performances for the present season on the 20th ult., with Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, and Mozart's *Requiem*, a conjunction of masterpieces, which never fails to attract a crowded audience; and which on this occasion filled the hall to overflowing. Nothing new can be said of compositions which have not only taken their place amongst those works which are formed for all time, but are so well known to music-lovers that mention of their merits becomes analogous to criticising the plays of Shakspeare. Mr. Sims Reeves sang as well as ever in the *Hymn of Praise*; but, as he was only recovering from indisposition, Mr. Wilbye Cooper took the Tenor part in the *Requiem*. Madam, Lemmens Sherrington gave the whole of the *Soprano* music with more than her usual brightness of style; and in the Duet, "I waited for the Lord," in which she was rather feebly supported by Mrs. Sidney Smith, she showed a real feeling for the truly religious music of Mendelssohn's. The two works were repeated on the 23rd ult. We hear that the first Oratorio of the season is to be Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

THE discussion on the election of Mr. Herbert S. Oakeley to the Chair of Music, at the University of Edinburgh, has scarcely been conducted in that spirit of toleration due to those who have voted in his favour. The new Professor has been almost universally treated as a person totally unknown, simply because his artistic efforts have not been such as to earn for him a fame before the general public. For the sake of the popularity of the Professorship, we might have wished that some of the candidates, whose merits have already been tested by time, had been selected; but we must not commit the injustice of ignoring the fact that not only has Mr. Oakeley furnished very excellent testimonials from distinguished musicians (amongst the rest from Dr. S. S. Wesley), but he has published a large number of vocal works, chiefly sacred, many of which, as Dr. Buck affirms, are often performed at Norwich; an evening "service," especially being, in constant use at the cathedral. We have before us a number of these compositions; and are bound to assert that, although we cannot agree with Dr. Buck that any of them are in parts "equal to the best productions of Mendelssohn," they are all written with a true feeling for Church Music, and distributed for the voices with the skill of a practised hand. Mr. Oakeley has now only to silence further criticism by vigorously endeavouring to raise the character of a Professorship, which, as far as the effects upon the progress of music are concerned, has hitherto been utterly valueless.

It appears that some legal archæologists have lately dug up a fossil Act of Parliament, which, instead of duly respecting as a curiosity which might have been serviceable in its day, they have actually endeavoured to put into active use. The licence applied for by the proprietor of the Hanover Square Rooms, was lately almost refused, because it seems that the letter of the law is that "in no licensed house, room, or garden," shall musical performances take place before five o'clock in the afternoon. It was scarcely wise to arouse this absurd Act, after a peaceful slumber of so many years, considering that every thinking person in the present day looks upon the whole licensing system as a monstrous farce. No doubt, on the meeting of Parliament, this law will be repealed; for there can be no discussion on the merits of an enactment which virtually declares that a sonata of Beethoven's at the Hanover Square Rooms, at three o'clock, has a more injurious tendency than "Slap-bang" at the Music Halls at midnight.

THE Tonic Sol-fa method of singing appears to be making rapid progress in the metropolis. We have heard favourable mention of a society meeting at the Tottenham Court Chapel Schools, under the direction of Mr. B. Congreve, which already numbers nearly a hundred voices, and is daily increasing. A concert of Mr. Congreve's Choir took place at St. Luke's Schools, Nutford Place, Edgware Road, on the 21st ult., at which a "Jubilate" by the concert-giver was performed, as well as several sacred and secular choral pieces.

A GOOD word should be said by all who have the diffusion of solid music at heart for an Association, the object of which is the production of unperformed masterpieces. The initiative in this matter is taken by the "Concordia," which has already earned a reputation by its steady adherence to compositions seldom found in concert programmes; and this title is, we understand, to be taken for the new Society. The musical director is Mr. W. Volckman, and the organist, Dr. Flowers. Arrangements have been made for rehearsals to be held weekly at Exeter Hall, commencing on Thursday, the 30th ult.

WE are glad to find that the "Vocal Association" has now been entirely re-organised, and is henceforth to be called "Mr. J. Benedict's Choral Society," the management and performances of the choir being entirely under his control. The rehearsals, which will extend from Wednesday, the 8th ult., to the second Wednesday in July, will be held at the Store-street Rooms, and

there will be at least two Concerts given at St. James's Hall during the season. We wish every success to a Society which, under the superintendence of so able a musician, may do much towards spreading a knowledge of choral music amongst amateurs.

ON the 28th of October, the unusual spectacle of a musical performance in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital took place, on the occasion of the inauguration of the South-Eastern Industrial Exhibition. The band and chorus, under the direction of Professor Baumer, A.R.A.M. of Dulwich College, and Mr. Smyth, performed an excellent selection of music, the chief feature of which was the production of a new Masque-Cantata, *The Triumph of Labour*, an allegorical and semi-religious work in about ten numbers, the composition of Mr. Baumer; the *libretto* from the pen of Mr. James Watkins, the Choir-master. The work was extremely successful, and we hope to have an opportunity of bearing personal testimony to its merits on some future occasion. The Chorus reflected great credit, not only on themselves, but on the admirable training to which they had been subjected by Mr. Baumer. Dr. Boardman presided at the organ; the instrument being lent on the occasion by Messrs. Bryce and Sons.

ON Monday, the 30th Oct., and Friday, the 3rd ult., Mr. Haslam gave two Musical Entertainments at St. John's School-rooms, Islip-street, Kentish Town. The music was sung by gentlemen and boys selected from the choirs of the Chapel Royal, and St. Ethelburga, City. Mr. R. Felix Blackbee, the newly appointed organist to St. John's Church, presided at one of Kirkman's grand pianofortes.

ON Friday evening, the 3rd ult., a vocal and instrumental concert was given in the Vestry Hall, Chelsea, by the classes connected with the Literary and Scientific Institution. Romberg's *Lay of the Bell* formed the first part of the programme; and the second part consisted of a miscellaneous selection of songs, part-songs, &c. The principal vocalists were Miss Emma Jenkins, Miss J. E. Smith, Mr. Duncan Swain, and Mr. George Benson. Mr. Henry R. Bird conducted.

ON Monday, the 6th ult., the Cecilian Choir gave a very good concert in the Fitzroy New Temperance Hall, Little Portland-street, Oxford-street. The programme was divided into two parts; the first, being sacred, included Farrant's "Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake," Himmel's "Incline Thine ear," &c.; and the second part consisted of secular songs, glees, &c. Mr. Walter Robinson conducted, and Mr. James Robinson presided at the pianoforte.

MADAME SARA FLOWER, a vocalist well-known in England some years ago, died in Sydney on the 20th of August last. As a rich *contralto*, with a most extensive compass, she had scarcely a rival, save Alboni, when in the zenith of her powers; but, although she had established herself in Sydney as a general favourite, we regret to hear that her latter hours were passed in comparative poverty; and that a solitary coach sufficed to contain all the mourners at her funeral.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. S.—*Certificates of proficiency are granted by the Royal Academy of Music to all Students who have sufficiently distinguished themselves; and in this Institution there are no resident pupils. In case our correspondent does not wish to enter a public Academy, we should recommend him, as the next best thing, to article himself to an organist of reputation, who will, no doubt, at the proper time, furnish him with a private testimonial as to his talent and fitness to enter the profession.*

\**Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.*

*Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.*

*We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.*

*Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.*

### Brief Summary of Country Debts.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.*

BANBURY.—On Friday evening, the 3rd ult. a concert was given in the Central Corn Exchange, by Mr. Eugene Spinney, organist of the parish church. The programme included the Cantata composed by Mr. Spinney for the degree of Mus. Bac., and a miscellaneous selection of vocal and instrumental music. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers. The soloists were Master Charles Harris (soprano), Mr. Rowley (alto); Mr. Thornton (tenor); Mr. Kenningham (basso). Solo pianiste, Miss Mattie

Spinney. The chorus was assisted by the New College Choir, Oxford.

**BANDON.**—A Lecture on the "Rise and Progress of Musical Art" was delivered by Professor Thomas Barry, in the Watergate National School-room, on the 7th ult. After making some important introductory observations, he entered upon his subject, and traced the progress of the art among the nations of antiquity, with ability and clearness. He proved that the ancients were, notwithstanding their greatness in the other arts and sciences, entirely ignorant of counterpoint or harmony; that they knew of no admixtures of sounds, except the unison and the octave, which, he said, formed the choruses of all the Oriental nations. The present state of musical art, said the professor, is not inferior to that of ancient Greece. On the contrary, the music of the ancients was feeble, false, and empty; while that of the moderns is melodious, expressive, and healthful. Why, then, he asked, is not the modern music as operative as was that of the Greeks. It was because of the inseparable union of poetry and music, which constituted the music of the ancient Greeks, and not the result of different harmonic combinations. Vossius, an acknowledged champion for the Greek music, does not attribute its efficacy to the richness or the elegance of its harmony, the spirit or pathos of its melody, but wholly to the force of its rhythm. So long as music flourished in this rhythmical form, so long flourished that power which was so adapted to excite and calm the passions. The lecturer was listened to with the utmost attention; and at the close was very warmly applauded and thanked by Dr. McCarthy.

**BATH.**—The Percy Chapel Choral Society gave the first *soirée* of the season on Tuesday, the 14th ult. Several choruses from the *Messiah*, *Judas Macabæus*, &c. were well rendered, and reflected credit on Mr. J. H. Macfarlane, the conductor and organist.

**BEEFORD.**—Miss Maria Wilson, of St. Stephen's Choir, Hull, assisted by Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, of York, gave a concert at the above place on the 13th ult. The performance was successful, several of the pieces being encored.

**BELFAST.**—On the 2nd ult. a concert was given in the Albert School, by the members of Fisherwick Choir. The programme included songs, duets, glees, and choruses, all being performed in a very creditable manner, several encores being accorded. Mr. McMahon presided at the harmonium, and Mr. W. Moss (late of Leeds) conducted.

**BIRKENHEAD.**—The Cambrian Choral Society gave a concert at the Workman's Hall, on Tuesday, the 24th October. John Thomas' Cantata "*Llewellyn*," formed the first, and a miscellaneous selection, the second part of the programme. Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Kate Wynne, Mr. George Hirst, and Mr. William Roberts, were the vocalists, in addition to the chorus of 80 voices. Mr. Skeaf presided at the pianoforte; Mr. William Parry officiated as conductor.

**CAPE TOWN.**—The "Good Hope Choral Union," under the direction of Mr. J. H. Ashley, gave a concert of Sacred Music in the Temperance Hall, on Monday evening, September 26th. The programme comprised selections from the *Messiah*, *St. Paul*, and *Mount of Olives*, and anthems and choruses by Pergolesi, Nares, Croft, Clarke Whitfield, and Kent.

**CARMARTHEN.**—The reopening of the organ in St. Peter's Church took place on Tuesday, the 7th ult. The organ, which was built by G. P. England, was purchased in 1796, and has now been greatly improved, and considerably enlarged by Mr. J. W. Walker, at a cost of £257; the organ originally cost 700 guineas. The choir, which consisted of 100 voices, was most efficient, proving the careful training the members had received from Mr. H. P. G. Brooke, the organist. After the evening service there was a grand selection of sacred music from the works of Handel, Mendelssohn, Farrant, Kent, &c. The solo singers were the Misses White, Parry, Phillips, Spurrills, and Miller; Messrs. Rees, Williams, White, and Davis.

**CHICHESTER.**—The first of a series of cheap concerts, got up under the management of the committee of the Working Men's Club and Reading Rooms, took place on the evening of the 15th ult. A number of amateurs, ladies and gentlemen, members for the most part of Mr. St. Clair's admirable vocal class, kindly lent their assistance. The concert was commenced by an overture, *L'Argentine* (Rotech), performed, through the kindness of Captain Madden, by the band of the Royal Sussex L. I. Militia. This was followed by a glee, "See our oars with feather'd spray," (Stevenson), sung by the amateurs above mentioned, assisted by the choristers of the cathedral. The Rev. W. Hook acted in this, and indeed throughout the concert, as conductor. Mr. F. Smither accompanied on the pianoforte; he also played a solo "Galop brillante," which being encored, he gave Loeffler's "La Babillarde."

**CREWE.**—A concert was given on Monday, the 23rd October, at the Town Hall, the occasion being the presentation of a Bugle to the 36th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers by Mrs. Ramsbottom. The vocalists were Mrs. Skeaf and Miss Bennett, of Liverpool, Mr. McKinnon, and a glee party. Solo violin Mr. Booth, pianoforte accompanist and solo, Mr. Skeaf, of Liverpool.

**DURSLEY.**—The new Organ, erected for the Wesleyan Chapel in this town, was opened on the 16th ult., when Mr. J. M. Shum, of Bath, who kindly offered his gratuitous services

on the occasion, played a number of pieces which amply tested the merits of the instrument. The organ, which is built by Mr. Sweetland, of Bath, consists of a deal case, with polished metal pipes in front; and during the performance the tone was much admired. There was also a programme of vocal music, in which Mr. Moody, of Bath, sang the Tenor Solo from *Elijah*, "If with all your hearts," so well; that a repetition was called for; and an Anthem, "Sing aloud unto God," by Mr. Summers (with Miss Hemming as principal *soprano*), was received with the utmost favour. During the evening a collection was made, and the debt incurred for the purchase of the organ was entirely cleared off.

**EDINBURGH.**—The Edinburgh Choral Union, in conjunction with the Tonic Sol-fa Association, gave a grand performance of Haydn's Oratorio, *The Creation*, on Friday evening, the 24th ult. The principal vocalists were Miss Rose Hersee, Mr. George Perren, and Mr. David Lambert. Leader, Mr. Stewart; and Conductor, Mr. Howard.

**GOLCAR.**—On Wednesday evening, the 1st ult., the Golcar Choral Society gave a concert in the New National School. Several solos and choruses from Handel's *Messiah* and *Samson* were very creditably performed. The principal vocalists were Miss North, Miss Mellor, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Dubury, and Mr. Hinchcliffe. Mr. Henry Pearson conducted. The proceeds of the concert were handed over to the committee for the benefit of the schools.

**GUISLEY, YORKSHIRE.**—A miscellaneous concert was given on the 1st ult., in the Methodist School-room. The vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, Mr. J. Pullen, Mr. W. Pullen, and Mr. Richardson; solo clarinet, Mr. Wood; pianoforte, Miss Martin.

**HALIFAX.**—The members and friends of the Dean Clough Glee and Madrigal Society held a tea party and *soirée* in the Odd Fellows' Hall, on the 4th ult. After tea several glees, songs and duets were sung by the members, including "Awake Æolian Lyre," solo and chorus "Come if you dare," the solo being sung by Mr. D. Baume in a very creditable manner; "My Pretty Jane," by Mr. William Keighley; &c. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing and other amusements. Conductor, Mr. J. Horsfield, Mr. A. Dean being absent.

**HERTFORD.**—A Sacred Musical Festival took place at the Congregational Church on the 22nd ult., the proceeds of which were devoted to the Funds of the General Infirmary. A very excellent programme was provided; and several ladies and gentlemen from the town and neighbourhood gave their services on the occasion. Mr. W. Finch presided at the organ.

**HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.**—A Festival of Parochial Choirs was lately held in St. Michael's Church, which proved extremely successful. The meeting was confined to the choirs of churches in the diocese of Durham; and many of the members, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, walked a considerable distance to be present. The trebles of each choir divided themselves equally into first and seconds. The first trebles took their places on the north, or *decani*, side; and the second trebles on the south, or *cantoris*, side. There were 398 chorists present; the voices being divided into 212 trebles, 39 altos, 96 tenors, and 81 basses. The musical services were conducted by Dr. J. B. Dykes, late Precentor to the Durham Cathedral, but now Rector of St. Oswald's; and Mr. Draycott, organist to St. Michael's Church, presided at the organ. The programme contained the processional Psalm, hymn before service (Dr. Gauntlett's) Psalms 98, 92, 100, and 101, the Creed, Anthem commencing "All people that on earth do dwell," and hymn before and after the sermon, in all of which the singers displayed the utmost proficiency. Many of the principal clergymen of the surrounding neighbourhood were present; and the prayers were intoned by the Rev. W. H. Robertson, Curate.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—The 119th Quarterly Concert of the Choral Society, the first of this season, took place in the Philosophical Hall, on Friday, the 3rd ult. The music performed was the *Stabat Mater* and *The Last Judgment*. The principal vocalists were Miss Annie Dransfield, Miss Moseley, Mr. Duxbury, and Mr. Garner. The band and chorus were equal to their task, and sustained the high reputation this society now so justly enjoys. Amongst the former were Mr. Iles, Mons. Baetens, Signor Grosse, Signor Raspi, and other eminent instrumentalists. Mr. R. S. Burton conducted.—The first of a series of Orchestral Concerts to be given during the season took place on Friday evening, the 10th ult., in the Philosophical Hall. Mr. Garner, in undertaking this great responsibility, deserves every credit for the really genuine concert he gave on the occasion. The solo performers were Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Helen Kirke, Mr. George Perren, and Mr. Huxtable. Signor Randegger was the accompanist, and Mr. Burton conducted. The band consisted of about forty instrumentalists, including some of the most eminent names of the day. Madame Rudersdorff was vociferously encored in "Robert" and "Ben e ridicolo"; as was Miss Helen Kirke in "Annie Laurie," and Mr. George Perren in "Round with her boys, yo! ho." A Septett (instrumental) by Mr. Iles, Mons. Baetens, Herr Grosse, Signor Raspi, Mr. Jones, Mr. Turner, and Herr Neuwirth, received a similar compliment. Mr. Garner deserves the utmost praise for his spirited introduction here of this long desired class of music; and we hope that his praiseworthy efforts may be rewarded as they fully deserve to be.

**HYTHE.**—On Wednesday evening, the 11th Oct., the Choral Society gave its second concert. The first part of the

programme consisted of a selection from the works of Mendelssohn, principally part-songs; and the second part included "Hail, smiling morn," "All among the Barley," "The Blue Bells of Scotland," &c. The concert was very successful, many of the pieces being encored. Mr. Philip Klitz conducted.

**KIRKSTALL, YORKSHIRE.**—A concert of Sacred Music was given on the 6th ult., in the Free Church School, in aid of the funds towards the erection of a New Chapel and School. The music was selected from Handel's *Messiah*, *Judas Maccabæus*, *Samson*, and Haydn's *Creation*. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Radcliffe, Mrs. Keighley, Mr. J. Pulein, and Mr. W. Pulein. Mr. Thornton led the band.

**LEICESTER.**—The Members of the Mechanics' Institute recommended their Literary and Musical entertainments on Monday, the 6th ult., in the Temperance Hall, and were favoured on the occasion with a numerous auditory. The readers were Rev. R. J. Allen, Messrs. J. Hunter, and W. Whitmore; Miss Deacon was the pianist, and the vocalists were Miss R. Christian, Messrs. Oldershaw, Wood and Waddington. The second entertainment took place on the 20th ult., when the readers were Messrs. H. J. Davis, W. Boulton, J. Hunter, and W. Whitmore; the pianist, Miss Sladen; and the vocalists, Messrs. Oldershaw, W. S. Bithrey, &c. HERR PRACK commenced his popular concerts on October 30th; the artists who have appeared at them have been Madame Sherrington, Miss Banks, Mr. Renwick, M. Wiener, M. Fontanier, and M. Lemmens. On Wednesday evening, the 15th ult., Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* was performed for the first time in Leicester, by the New Philharmonic Society, in aid of the funds of the Institution for the Blind, before one of the largest audiences ever gathered together in the Temperance Hall. The chorus numbered about 200. The principals were Miss Florence De Courcy, soprano; Miss Clowes, contralto; Messrs. Oldershaw and N. Atkins, tenors, and Mr. W. T. Briggs, of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, bass. There was an efficient string band, assisted by a pianoforte (Mr. Löhr), and harmonium (Mr. T. A. Wykes). Mr. H. Nicholson conducted, and Miss Deacon did good service in leading the soprano chorus.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The first of a series of Classical Chamber Concerts, conducted by Mr. E. W. Thomas, was given in the small room of St. George's Hall on the 7th ult. The programme was exceedingly good, and comprised selections from the works of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. The pianist was Herr Pauer, and the violins, viola, and violoncello were most ably sustained by Messrs. E. W. Thomas, C. A. Seymour, Bernhardt, and Vicuxtemps. In responding to an *encore*, Herr Pauer performed the opening movement of Handel's Second Organ Concerto. The concert was of the highest character throughout, and was eminently successful. The Tenth Subscription Concert of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 14th ult. The selection was varied and exceedingly attractive. The delicate and finished Glee singing of the "London Glee and Madrigal Union" was much admired; and two Clarinet Solos, by Mr. Lazarus, displayed to perfection his delicious tone and exquisite power of phrasing. Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony was the great orchestral work of the evening. On the 31st October a Welsh Concert was given at St. George's Hall by Mr. John Owen, of Chester (Owain Alaw), the organist of the grand old Garrison Church of Santa Maria del Castro. The Hall was crowded in every part; and several *encores* were demanded in the course of the evening. The principal vocalists were Miss Eliza Hughes (Royal Academy, London), and Miss Kate Wynne. Mr. J. R. Thomas (composer of "Evangeline," and the "Cottage by the Sea") sang no less than five times, and was highly successful. Mr. Aptommas's harp playing was much admired; as was also Llew Llwy's singing of "Le Desert," in which he displayed a baritone voice of excellent quality. The choruses were conducted by Mr. W. Parry; and Mr. Owen, the concert-giver, also contributed much to the success of the entertainment.

**LONGSIGHT.**—On Friday, the 3rd ult., the first of a series of four subscription concerts took place in the School-room of St. Stephen's Church, Everton Road. Miss Wood and Mr. R. Manley as solo vocalists, Miss Warren as pianist, Mr. J. Downs as accompanist, and Mr. J. M. Bentley as conductor, rendered their services gratuitously, and the proceeds of the concerts are to be applied to congregational purposes.

**MIDDLETON.**—On Thursday evening, the 7th ult., a concert was given in the National School-room, Long-street, by Mr. Field. The vocalists were Miss Armstrong, Miss Kate Wynne, Mr. Foulkes, and Mr. Hughes. Messrs. J. M. and J. T. Field presided respectively at the pianoforte and harmonium.

**NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**—A Grand Evening Concert was given in the New Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 8th ult. Vocalists, Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Helen Kirke, Mr. George Fernen, Mr. Huxtable, and Mr. David Lambert. Conductor, Signor Randegger. Several solos were encored, and the concert was altogether most successful.

**NEWTOWN (near SYDNEY.)**—A Concert was given by the Newtown Vocal Society on the 6th September, which was highly successful. The first part of Handel's "Judas Maccabæus," and a miscellaneous act of secular music were performed on the occasion. The *debut* of a young Tenor, Mr. Newbury, is spoken of in the highest terms, his voice not only being of a fine quality, but having a most extensive compass. A young lady amateur (Miss Stenner) also made a great effect in the *soprano* part of the Oratorio; and in Bishop's "Bid me discourse," in the second act, which indeed was so well given as to elicit an universal *encore*. The choral music was well rendered; and every credit is due to the

conductor, Mr. M. Younger, for the admirable manner in which he has trained his choir. We have every hope that this Newtown Society may continue to improve and prosper; for as the cheap editions of the standard classical works by Messrs. Novello appear to circulate so extensively in the colony, there can be little doubt that the smallest town may now possess its "Sacred Harmonic Society," where the best compositions may be heard at a moderate rate of admission.

**NORTH SHIELDS.**—On Tuesday evening, the 7th ult., Mr. Charles Greenwell's Choir performed selections from the works of Handel and Haydn. The concert was very successful.

**QUEBEC, CANADA.**—Mr. James Pearce, Mus. Bac. Oxon, having resigned the appointment of organist to the English Cathedral for that of St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia, a grand complimentary farewell concert was given to him on St. George's Day, and an address presented by the President of the St. George's Society, of which he was the organist. The programme consisted of Mendelssohn's 95th Psalm, and a miscellaneous selection, by a choir of above 80 voices. Mr. F. B. Mills, late of Kennington, has succeeded Mr. Pearce.

**READING.**—Miss Fanny Binfield's Grand Morning and Evening Concerts took place on the 7th ult. The following artistes appeared; vocalists, Miss Edmonds, Madame Sain-ton-Dolby, Signor Gardoni, and the Vocal Quartette Union; instrumentalists, Mr. H. Blagrove, Mr. Zerbini, Mr. R. Blagrove, and Mr. Aylward; at the pianoforte, Miss Sophie Havell, and Miss Binfield. On the 13th ult. Mrs. E. P. Freeman gave a concert, assisted by Miss Annie Cox, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Chaplin Henry, and the Vocal Quartette Union.

**SALISBURY.**—A concert was given at the Assembly Rooms, on the 2nd ult., by the Lay Vicars of the cathedral, for the benefit of Mr. Drage, who was formerly a Lay Vicar in Salisbury Cathedral, but who, for some years, has been unable to fulfil his duties, through severe and hopeless affliction. The vocalists included Miss Thorne, Miss Aylward, Messrs. Stanley, Heywood, Westmoreland, Taylor, Ingram, and Kenningham. Mr. Richardson, organist of the cathedral, presided at the pianoforte. The proceeds amounted to about 40*l.*, in addition to which, the committee of the Choir Benevolent Fund sent 3*l.*, and the Lay Vicars of Wells Cathedral a cheque for 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, expressive of their sympathy, and with a hope that other cathedral choirs would follow their example. The Choral Society gave its first open night of the season on the evening of the 25th October, when "Spring" and "Summer" of Haydn's *Seasons* were performed. Miss Aylward, Mrs. H. T. Arnfield, Mr. Westmoreland, and Mr. Kenningham were the soloists; Mr. Calkin was the leader of the band, and Mr. Richardson wielded the *battin* with his accustomed ability. The performance was a decided success.

**TANFIELD.**—A concert was given in the School-room, on the 27th October, by Mr. Prændergast, organist of Burneston Church, Abley, assisted by Mrs. Magson and Miss Nulton, of Bradford, and Mr. Mitchell, of Tanfield. The part-songs, &c. were sung by the Carthorp Choral Union.

**WARMINSTER, WILTS.**—On the evening of the 31st October, a concert was given in the Athenæum Rooms. The programme consisted of secular music. The performers engaged included Miss Thorne, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Kenningham. Mr. Richardson, organist of Salisbury Cathedral, presided at the pianoforte.

**WORCESTER.**—The first meeting for the season of the Worcester Glee Club, which has now been established at the Crown Hotel for nearly 40 years, was held on Tuesday evening, 14th ult., when there was a large muster of the old familiar faces, nearly 60 gentlemen being present. Mr. John Hood was called to the chair, and Mr. Noake filled the vice. It was stated in the course of the evening that at the next meeting there would be an excellent band in attendance. A most social and enjoyable evening was spent, and there is good reason to anticipate that season 1865-66 of the Worcester Glee Club will be as successful as the meetings of former years. A GENERAL MEETING of the members of the Festival Choral Society, was held on Friday evening, the 10th ult., at the Guildhall, to receive the report of the committee, and to appoint officers. The Rev. W. Rayson was unanimously requested to act as honorary secretary. Mr. F. Eaton, who has long held the post of librarian, was elected secretary; Mr. Locke, a very useful member of the society, succeeding Mr. Eaton as custodian of the book property. Mr. R. Taylor, assistant-organist of the cathedral, was appointed one of the organists, and Mr. John Grainger continues to take care of the treasury. Rehearsals will be commenced immediately, and the first concert of the season will be given as soon as the much and long-desired improvements in the Music Hall are completed.

**ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. H. C. S. Glover, to the Catholic Cathedral, Plymouth. Mr. James Groom, to Barton-on-Humber. Mr. E. Drew, Jun., to the Buckingham Congregational Chapel, Buckingham Gate. Mr. R. Stocks, Jun., to the Parish Church, Bulwell, Nottinghamshire.

**BIRKENHEAD SATURDAY EVENING CONCERTS.**—The Manager of the above Concerts and Entertainments will be glad to receive offers from parties wishing Engagements. Apply to Mr. W. Ryalls, Music Warehouse, Birkenhead, Manager.